

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10205 171653Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----180323Z 116408 /61

R 171455Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6312  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10205

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EG, UR  
SUBJECT: FAHMY VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: (A) CAIRO 9970 (NOTAL), (B) MOSCOW 8514 (NOTAL)

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY OBVIOUS EGYPTIAN UNCOMMUNICATIVENESS ABOUT FAHMY'S MOSCOW TALKS. FAHMY, MFA UNDERSEC AHMED OSMAN, MFA INTORGS DIRECTOR AMR MUSA ALL SPOUT SAME LINE: "NOTHING MUCH HAPPENED", "IT WAS A GOOD BEGINNING", "WE WILL NEVER GO BACK TO OLD RELATIONSHIP" AND SIMILAR EMPTY PHRASES. CLEARLY, INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO MFA OFFICIALS TO SAY LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT MOSCOW TALKS. FAHMY'S OWN SPARSE COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR WERE REPORTED REF A. WE SPECULATE THAT POSSIBLE REASONS FOR EGYPTIAN RETICENCE MAY BE: (A) TALKS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL OR AT LEAST INCONCLUSIVE, (B) SOMETHING WAS WORKED OUT WHICH EGYPTIANS DO NOT WISH US TO KNOW ABOUT, OR (C) COMBINATION OF THE TWO.

2. UK AMB TODAY SHARED WITH US REPORT PREPARED BY ONE OF HIS OFFICERS AFTER TALK WITH ANOTHER OF FAHMY'S AIDES, MINISTER ZANT, WHO WAS ALONG ON MOSCOW TRIP. IN CONTRAST CLOSED MOUTHEDNESS OF HIS MFA  
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COLLEAGUES, ZANT GAVE FULLER ACCOUNT. WHILE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO WHAT WE HAVE HEARD, IT HAS NEW WRINKLE THAT SOVIETS MAY HAVE AGREED TO RESUME SPARE PARTS SUPPLIES. OUTLINE OF ZANT COMMENTS SET FORTH BELOW:

A.  
ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS GOOD. MEETING DEFINITE STEP FORWARD IN

CONTRAST EARLIER SOFIA MEETING. BOTH SIDES KNEW DIFFICULT PROBLEMS REMAINED BEFORE RELATIONS COULD BE NORMALIZED.

B. ON ME ISSUE, EGYPTIAN AND SOVIET VIEWS WERE IDENTICAL.

C. SOVIETS HAD AGREED MEET GOE'S REQUEST FOR SPARE PARTS. ASKED IF THIS WAS SIMPLY A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE OR AGREEMENT TO PARTICULAR LIST, ZANT REPLIED LIST WELL KNOWN AND HAD IN FACT BEEN GIVEN TO SOVIETS LONG AGO. THEY HAD NOW AGREED SUPPLY THE ITEMS ON THAT LIST. THEY HAD ALSO AGREED TO RETURN MIG ENGINES WHICH HAVE SO LONG BEEN IN MOSCOW FOR REPAIR.

D. NO AGREEMENT REACHED REGARDING NEW WEAPONS. THIS WOULD REQUIRE DECISION BY POLITBURO AND WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT LATER STAGE IN SERIES OF BILATERAL MATTERS.

E. NO DISCUSSION OF DEBT ISSUE HAD TAKEN PLACE. FOR TIME BEING SOVIETS CONTENT ACCEPT ARRANGEMENT UNDER RECENTLY SIGNED TRADE PROTOCOL WHICH GIVES THEM SURPLUS OF L 80 MILLION (\$140 MILLION) IN SOVIET FAVOR. GOE REGARDS THIS AS AN INSTALLMENT OF DEBT REPAYMENT. SOVIETS LIKELY PRESS AT LATER STAGE FOR FIVE-YEAR TRADE PROTOCOL, WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM L 400 MILLION (\$700 MILLION) SURPLUS OVER THE PERIOD. THIS, ACCORDING ZANT, WOULD AMOUNT TO OVER ONE MILLION RUBLES AND ABOUT ONE THIRD OF TOTAL DEBT (PRESUMABLY COMMERCIAL DEBT). ANY GOE AGREEMENT TO FIVE-YEAR TRADE PROTOCOL WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON PACKAGE DEAL INVOLVING SOVIET WILLINGNESS SUPPLY NEW WEAPONS.

F. SOVIET AGREED STEP UP SUPPLY OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES WHICH EGYPT BADLY NEEDS, SPECIFICALLY COKING COAL FOR HELWAN.

GOE WILL STILL NEED COKING

COAL FROM OTHER SOURCES, BUT COULD MEET ITS NEEDS THROUGH IMPORTS FROM THE US.

G. ON POLITICAL RELATIONS, SOVIETS HAD FOR FIRST TIME NOT RAISED CONFIDENTIAL

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ISSUE OF EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH US. THEY WERE PRESSING FOR DOCUMENT DEFINING EGYPTIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS. GOE ATTITUDE WAS THAT UNTIL RELATIONS GOOD, IT WOULD BE POINTLESS DRAW UP SUCH DOCUMENT. THERE NO QUESTION OF NEW TREATY BEING SIGNED.

H. FAHMY EXPLAINED GOE NOT PURSUING ANTI-SOVIET POLICY IN AFRICA. ITS POLICY IS ONE OF SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF AFRICAN STATES. THUS, GOE OPPOSED SOVIETS IN ZAIRE, BUT EQUALLY CONDEMNED RHODESIAN RAID ON MOZAMBIQUE AND GENERALLY SUPPORTED SOVIET POSITION IN MOZAMBIQUE. MAIN GOE CONCERN IS SECURITY OF SUDAN AND SOUTH AND EAST OF EGYPT. IF SOVIETS THREATEN THESE AREAS, THEY WOULD MEET EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION. IF SUDAN INVOLVED IN WAR, EGYPT WOULD GO TO HER AID. IF SOVIET POLICY IN ETHIOPIA IS ANTI-SUDANESE, THIS WOULD BE REGARDED SERIOUSLY BY EGYPT.

I. GROMYKO RATHER THAN FAHMY HAD SUGGESTED GOE COULD PLAY ROLE IN SOVIET/SUDANESE RELATIONS. GOE VIEW IS TIMING NOT RIGHT FOR ANY SUCH MEDIATION. SOVIET POSITION IN SUDAN DETERIORATING AS EVIDENCED BY SOVIET EXPELLING FIVE SUDANESE DIPLOMATS.

J. NO DATE YET SET FOR GROMYKO VISIT TO CAIRO. PROPOSED SUMMIT

MEETING DEPENDENT ON FURTHER MEETING OF FONMINS TAKING PLACE AND BEING A SUCCESS. IT REMAINS BE SEEN IF RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE IMPROVE OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS.

3. COMMENT: ALLEGED SOVIET AGREEMENT TO RESUME SPARE PARTS DELIVERIES, IF INDEED TRUE AND IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD BE A PLUS FOR EGYPT. EGYPTIAN MILITARY WOULD WARMLY WELCOME SUCH STEP. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER SUCH AGREEMENT ACTUALLY REACHED OR, IF SO, WHAT ITS SCOPE MAY BE. FAHMY TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HAD GIVEN SOVIETS "HELL" OVER SPARE PARTS ISSUE, BUT SAID NOTHING REGARDING OUTCOME. IF SUCH AGREEMENT WAS IN FACT REACHED, EGYPTIANS OBVIOUSLY WANT TO KEEP MUM ABOUT IT--AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. WE ARE SEEKING DISCREETLY CHECK REPORT THROUGH OUR OWN SOURCES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009